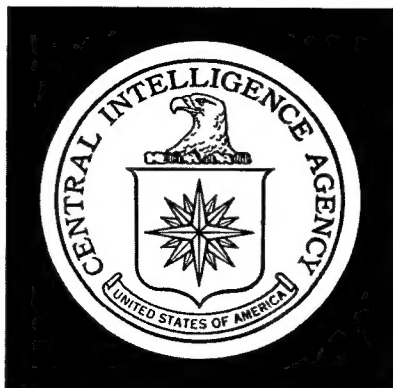


Top Secret



MCO



DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

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17 July 1967

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Information as of 1600
17 July 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

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I. The Military Situation in South Vietnam:

Three major allied drives, two in Quang Tri Province and one in Phuoc Tuy Province, ended on 16 July (Paras. 2-5).

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III. Military Developments in North Vietnam:
There is nothing of significance to report.

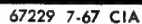
IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. No major ground engagements were reported in South Vietnam on 17 July.

2. Three major allied drives, two in Quang Tri Province and one in southeastern Phuoc Tuy Province, terminated on 16 July. In Operation CROCKETT, two battalions of US Marines killed 206 Communists during a two-month sweep of the area surrounding Khe Sanh, a vital Marine garrison in western Quang Tri Province near the Laotian border. The operation, in which the Marine units involved lost 52 killed and 255 wounded, was targeted against elements of the 325th NVA Division and may have pre-empted a major drive by the 325th against Khe Sanh and/or the nearby Lang Vei Special Forces camp.

3. In the northeastern quadrant of Quang Tri Province, a ten-battalion US Marine task force supported by three ARVN battalions concluded Operation HICKORY II after three days. The operation--targeted against an estimated minimum of 11 battalions from five NVA regiments threatening Marine positions in the Con Thien - Gio Linh area--resulted in enemy losses of 57 killed and US losses of four killed and 99 wounded. Although only sporadic contact was made with the enemy, the short-term allied campaign probably forced at least a temporary withdrawal of some NVA combat maneuver elements to sanctuary within and possibly north of the DMZ.

4. Meanwhile, some 50 miles south-southeast of Saigon in Phuoc Tuy Province, Operation PADDINGTON--a nine-battalion allied thrust spearheaded by the US 9th Infantry Division--ended after one week. The operation killed 92 Communists probably from elements of the 274th Regiment/5th Viet Cong Light Infantry Division which traditionally operates in the Phuoc Tuy - Long Khanh Province area. Allied casualties included 13 killed (3 US) and 59 wounded (17 US).

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III. MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH VIETNAM

IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

17 July 1967

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